



# RESPONSE EMS - ALASKA



Volume 24, Number 1

Fall 2002



## 27th Annual EMS Symposium



This issue of RESPONSE: EMS ALASKA includes the schedule for the 2002 State EMS Symposium. This year's event will be held at the Egan Center, in Anchorage, on November 13, 14, 15, and 16. The hosting hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook where the special conference rate is \$80 per night (single or double). The toll free reservation line for the Hotel Captain Cook is (800) 478-3100 (in-state), (800) 843-1950 (out-of-state). A shuttle bus service will be provided to and from the conference site during normal conference hours.

As you can see from the schedule, this year's symposium should be both entertaining and educational. It is our 27th Annual EMS Symposium! We have many new and innovative speakers attending this year's event and welcome back several others who have made their marks on Alaska EMS.

### Pre-Symposium Workshops

There are several high quality pre-symposium workshops from which to choose. These classes provide an opportunity to learn about a subject in more detail than is possible during the 90-minute presentations found on Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday, November 13, we will feature a one-day EMS Management Workshop. This workshop is designed for the rural EMS providers who suddenly find themselves in charge.

Wednesday we will start the first day of a two-day *Designated/Infection Control Officer* course. This course is designed to prepare the infection control officer to fully meet the requirements of the position under NFPA 1581, OSHA, and the Ryan White Law. Space is limited, so sign up today. Register by October 4 to avoid cancellation of the course.

Another two-day course begins on Wednesday; the *Alaska Medevac Escort Course*. This course is being taught by Medevac course instructors who were part of the update task force. This will be the rollout of the new curriculum.

Thursday, November 14, we have a full day planned with many options for obtaining continuing education credit. We are offering two full-day classes: *Billing Workshop* and *Forensics/Crime Scene Management*. There are also six

half-day sessions: *Bioterrorism Update*; *New Trends in Drug Abuse*; *Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect by the Prehospital Provider*; *Winter Safety*; *The Paramedic Teaching Resource for Instructors in Prehospital Pediatrics (TRIPP)* and *the Pediatric Prehospital Care (PPC): A Partnership in Paramedic Education in Pediatrics*; and *The Force be With You/EMS and Injury Prevention: A Persuasive Moment*.

All sessions will be at the Egan Convention Center but please check the schedule for time and details starting on page seven.

### Opening Session

You don't want to miss this year's opening session. As in years past, we will announce the nominees and winners of many of the Governor's EMS awards. This will provide an opportunity for award winners and nominees to be recognized by their peers and colleagues during the Symposium.

*Note: CME will be available for this session.*

### General Session

The field of Emergency Medical Services has evolved significantly over the past two decades. Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P, a frequent and well received presenter at Alaska EMS Symposia, will speak on "*EMS in the Last Frontier: Reflections from a Frequent Guest*."

*(Continued on page 3)*

An Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Publication

Tony Knowles, Governor

Karen Perdue, Commissioner

## RESPONSE: EMS Alaska

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## INJURY PREVENTION TRACK



Injury remains the number one cause of death for Alaskans age 1 through 44. How can pre-hospital providers be better prepared for the injuries they will encounter when responding to an emergency? How can pre-hospital providers be actively involved with injury prevention before the 911 call?

This year's injury prevention track emphasizes injury assessment involving motor vehicle accidents, cold water and cold weather exposure prevention and treatment, frostbite prevention and treatment, avalanche dangers, and sports injuries.

Young drivers will be the focus for the Thursday afternoon pre-symposium session and will feature Rob Kaufman from the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN) located at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Rob will present a program "The Force is With You" that has been developed to use in drivers education programs to teach an awareness of crash dynamics and safety engineering.

EMS providers are perfectly positioned to use their training and experience to spread the injury prevention message to the public. With a basic understanding of injury prevention, EMS providers can turn potential tragedy into "A Persuasive Moment". Bob Painter will use this theme during the Thursday afternoon pre-symposium session to provide pre-hospital providers with the tools needed to convey the injury prevention message.

We hope to see many of you at these presentations to learn from and be inspired by the excellent speakers we have lined up for this track.



On Friday, November 15, 2002, Providence Alaska Medical Center will sponsor the Safe Kids Luncheon for those who are active or interested in child safety issues. The luncheon will be limited to the first fifty pre-registrants. You won't want to miss this exciting luncheon!



## CLINICAL TRACK



This year's clinical track promises to be exciting and has something to offer everyone.

The program will span three days, beginning on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday is a full day with presentations starting at 8:30 am and going to 5 pm. Please refer to the schedule beginning on page 7. In addition to the clinical track there are other options that participants may be interested in attending, such as the two-day *Designated/Infection Control Officer* course or the two-day *Alaska Medevac Escort Course*, be sure to check the entire pre-symposium schedule for other exciting programs. Continuing education credit will be available for all these presentations.

Friday is the official start of symposium with a clinical track

(Continued on page 3)

(continued from Page 1)

This presentation will include information about contemporary practices in EMS; observations about the importance of EMS in our society; and an introduction to emerging issues that will be faced by EMS personnel and agencies in Alaska.

(Continued from page 2)

presentation at 8:30 am, followed by the keynote presentation at 10:30 am. This year's presenter is Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P. Twink has a long history of presenting at Alaska's EMS Symposia and she will speak on "EMS in the Last Frontier: Reflections from a Frequent Guest." There are two free luncheons offered that day, one is the Safe Kids luncheon at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel and the other is an EMS Instructors Luncheon at Alaska Regional Hospital. If you are interested in attending either luncheon, pre-registration is required since seating is limited.

On Saturday there will be a special one-day Medical Directors Course. This is a newly developed course being provided by NorthStar Academy in Anchorage. The course is designed for Alaska's medical directors, highlighting regulations and quality assurance programs for EMS agencies. Included in the course is a Medical Director's luncheon. Old and new medical directors are encouraged to attend. Since this is a new course, we encourage participants to evaluate the program and offer suggestions to improvement.

Please take a look at the list of lecturers and topics we have assembled. We think you will agree that it is an exciting program. Southern Region EMS Council, Inc., designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. Nursing CEUs have also been applied for.

We look forward to seeing you in Anchorage at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Symposium in November.

### ***Pre-Symposium Highlights***

#### **EMS Rural Management Workshop**

Presented by Kevin Koechlein  
and 3R Consultants

This management workshop is designed to provide rural, primarily volunteer, EMS managers and supervisors an overview of the management issues of critical im-

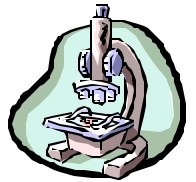


portance to an effective EMS program. The program will be divided into four major sections, these are: "What is a Manager," "Human Resource Issues," regulations, and billing. The primary presenter has an extensive background in EMS management in Alaska, and the program will discuss some Alaska-specific issues as well as major issues facing all EMS programs. This will be a fast paced program using a combination of lecture and discussion along with some short group exercise. The exercises are designed to help the participant better understand certain key issues and how to develop solutions to their problems.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 13 from 8 am—5 pm at the Egan Convention Center. Space is limited, so sign up early!

### **Designated/Infection Control Officer (Basic)**

We are excited to have Katherine West, BSN, MEd, CIC, bring her two-day Designated/Infection Control Officer (Basic) course to Alaska. Katherine has been involved with Infection Control since 1975 and pioneered infection control in EMS in 1978. She is a recognized expert on Infectious Disease Management, OSHA compliance and inspections, and disease control issues.



This two-day workshop is designed to prepare the infection control officer to fully meet the position requirements under NFPA 1581, OSHA, and the Ryan White Law. This role has great responsibility with regard to evaluation of exposure, reporting, ensuring proper medical follow-up, and recordkeeping. This course will prepare you for this vital role.

The course will be held Wednesday and Thursday, November 13 and 14 at the Egan Convention Center. Space is limited and be sure to sign up by October 4th to avoid cancellation of the course!

### **Fosselman & Weiland, CPAs Presents: The 2002 Billing Forum**

The past twelve months have provided a multitude of new regulations and guidelines for EMS billing offices including:

- April 1, 2002 – the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule went into effect
- May 2002 – State of Alaska Medicaid announces

(Continued on page 11)

## Hotel Reservations

The hosting hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook where the conference rate is \$80 per night. The toll free reservation line for the hotel is 800-478-3100 (in-state), 800-843-1950 (out-of-state). Those needing hotel reservations are encouraged to contact the Hotel Captain Cook as soon as possible and before October 10, 2001, to guarantee the special symposium rate. Information regarding the shuttle bus service to and from the conference site will be available at hotel check-in.

We remind you of the importance of staying at our host hotel, the Hotel Captain Cook, which is offering us the special symposium rate. While we realize that some of you may want to stay at other locations for a variety of reasons, your support is very important to the Symposium overall. Staying at the official host hotel assists in many ways, including offering significantly reduced costs for our speaker rooms, providing the shuttle service to the Egan Center, and other benefits based on the number of hotel rooms used. This in turn, allows us to bring you the highest quality speakers and helps us to keep the Symposium registration fees at the same low rates as in previous years.

## Parking

The Egan Center is located on 5th Avenue between E and F Streets and there are many convenient options for parking nearby. There are approximately **800 free parking spaces** within a five-block radius of the Egan Center. Monday through Friday, between 9 AM and 6 PM, you may park for two hours on a block. On Saturday, Sunday, evenings, and municipal holidays, free parking is permitted at all metered spaces. Parking and garages nearby include:

- JC Penney Garage (6th and E Street)  
\$8.00 all day (50 cents/hour)  
open: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 6th Avenue Parking Garage (enter on H Street)  
\$5.00 all day (75 cents/hour)  
Open 24 hours
- 5th Avenue Parking Garage (5th and B Street)  
\$5.00 all day (50 cents/hour)  
Open 24 hours
- Post Office Mall and Lower Bowl Lots (3rd Ave., between E and C Street)  
\$.50/hour—2 hour metered lots
- Dimond Parking Lots  
Weekdays by the hour  
Saturday, \$2.00 all day
- Hotel Captain Cook Parking (5th Avenue and K Street)  
\$15.00/day for valet parking in garage



## Participate in the 25th Annual All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition

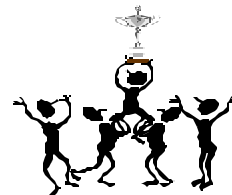
The King Career Center Emergency Services Technology Program and the Alaska Medical Support Team are organizing the All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition. This annual event will be staged on Saturday, November 10th, in the Egan Center.

The organizers of the skills competition will distribute to all teams who pre-register a list of specific criteria by which the teams will be judged, as well as the criteria used for tie breaking. The criteria also will be sent to those organizations requesting them in writing.

Trophies and plaques for the top five teams will be presented at a ceremony during the awards banquet on Saturday, November 16th, at the Egan Center. In addition, prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Entry forms are contained in this issue, if you have any further questions, please contact Southern Region EMS Council at (907) 562-6449.

### All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition Rules

- Three practical problems will be selected from the EMT-I skills levels.
- Only one team (two members) from each organization may enroll.
- Each team is required to bring its own trauma kit, equipped as the members see fit. Any specialized equipment required for the practical will be furnished by the committee. If it is not possible to bring a kit, please let the committee know in advance and one will be supplied. No books will be allowed.
- There is no entry fee.
- Each team must send completed entry blanks before November 2, 2001, so adequate plans may be made for space. Late entries may be accepted on a space available basis.
- Each team is composed of two competitors and one judge. That judge will proctor a team other than the one from his or her service area. The judge may come from an area outside the team's service area. The judge must be certified to at least the EMT-I level.



**It's not too early to begin planning for the 2003 Alaska EMS Symposium!** Topics and speakers will be largely determined by Symposium evaluations and letters. **Let us know your ideas!** Check your symposium program, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc., and the Section of Community Health and EMS web sites for the dates.



## Upcoming Regional Symposia

### Southeast Region EMS Symposium

April 9—12, 2003

(4/9 & 4/10 are pre-symposium classes)

Sitka, Alaska

#### Information:

Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.

(907)747-8005

[serems@ptialaska.net](mailto:serems@ptialaska.net)

### Interior Region 9th Annual EMS Symposium

April 2—5, 2003

(4/2 & 4/3 are pre-symposium classes)

Fairbanks, Alaska

#### Information:

Interior Region EMS Council, Inc

(907)456-3978

<http://www.iremcs.org>

## Alaska is Getting Alarmed!

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is working on making sure rural Alaskan homes are protected with smoke alarms. DHSS is working with other state departments, statewide organizations and agencies along with regional health corporations to try and reach rural communities with the Prevention of Fire Related Injuries project. Rural communities will be canvassed door-to-door to check on existing smoke alarms and home fire safety and prevention practices. New smoke alarms will be provided if a home is not adequately covered. Along with the smoke alarm check and installation of a new alarm, home fire safety and prevention education will be emphasized. The educational component will include home fire escape planning and practice, dealing with children and fire, safer smoking in the home, smoke alarm maintenance, safe cooking practices, checking for safe use of electricity and appropriate use of home heating equipment. From July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 the project will be operating out of Dillingham, Nome, Bethel, Sitka, Fairbanks and Kotzebue.



## Poisoning News

Over 25,000 Poison Control brochures, stickers, and magnets highlighting the new national poison hotline (1-800-222-1222) have been distributed to communi-

ties across the state since February 2002. Additional stickers and brochures are available by calling the Injury Prevention office (465-1185). There is also a poison prevention PowerPoint presentation available both online and on CD ROM.

The "Poison Prevention - Alaska" and the "Plant Poisoning Prevention & Treatment-A Guide to Plants That Poison" brochures are available from the Injury Prevention office (465-1185), and on the website at [www.chems.alaska.gov/ems\\_poison\\_control.htm](http://www.chems.alaska.gov/ems_poison_control.htm).

## Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Takes to the Road!

The SAFE KIDS Coalition vans drive from Homer to Kodiak and from Seward to Juneau.



These two colorful vans are identically equipped. Each carry all the materials needed for a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat check-up event. All the necessary tents, signs, banners, clipboards, table, forms, child car seats and boosters are packed tightly and securely.

General Motors awarded two vans to the Alaska SAFE KIDS Coalition. The State of Alaska's Division of Public Health Section of Community Health & Emergency Medical Services (CHEMS) is a founding member and continues to strongly support the SAFE KIDS Coalition and shares in its mission to prevent childhood injuries and deaths. Motor vehicle related injuries are a major cause of hospitalization and death in Alaska.

The van going from Homer to Kodiak will be used on August 24<sup>th</sup> for the first CPS event held on that island and will inaugurate a new Providence Kodiak SAFE KIDS Chapter. Contact SAFE KIDS Coalition Statewide Coordinator Peggy Hayashi at Providence Medical Systems 261-5625 for more information.

The van going from Homer to Juneau has already arrived. Contact the Juneau SAFE KIDS Coordinator, Karen Lawfer at CHEMS 465-8632 to find out when the van will be in Sitka, Angoon, Hoonah, Haines, Ketchikan, Wrangell, or Petersburg.

How do these CPS vans get to all these places without any roads? Alaskans know to take the Marine Highway.



## EMS Symposium Continuing Education Credits

Continuing education credits for EMTs and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, nurses, physicians and physician assistants are being arranged for most of the programs.

"Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity."

Behavioral Objectives for all presentations will be available for viewing on Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.'s web site after September 10, 2002, at <http://www.sremsc.org>.

## EMS Symposium Special Events

- ◆ There will be the fourth Annual EMS Instructors Luncheon sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital on Friday, November 15th, from 12:15 - 1:30 PM. It will be located at Alaska Regional Hospital, 2801 DeBarr Road. You can sign-up to attend on the symposium pre-registration form. Space is limited to the first 50.
- ◆ The Twenty-fifth Annual All Alaska EMT Skills Competition will be held on Saturday afternoon. Once again, the skills competition is being organized by EMT-Instructor Alan Loken and sponsored by the Alaska Medical Support Team. (See page 4 for details)
- ◆ The Twenty-fifth Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at the Egan Center. Annual Governor's EMS Awards will be presented to a Consumer/Citizen, Provider, Administrator/Researcher, Nurse (the Melissa Ann Peters Memorial Award), EMS Educator, and a Physician (the Longenbaugh Memorial Award). An Outstanding Ambulance Service award and a \$500 gift certificate from Safety Incorporated also will be presented.

Because of subsidies generously provided by several vendors, the cost for the banquet is only \$26. The menu will be a mixed field greens; Choice of Sirloin Steak with forest mushroom sauce or Poached Filet of Halibut served with Pacific Northwest Gewurztraminer wine sauce; and carrot cake. Please indicate any special dietary needs when pre-registering.

## Airfare

**Alaska Airlines** is offering discounted airfare for travel to the Symposium. They will give **5%** discount on all published excursion fares except for companion fares, "V" inventory or other promotional offers. They will discount **10%** from YAS or FAS fares. All fare rules apply. Request code **CMR5860**.



## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL EMS AWARDS



The 25th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on November 16, 2002 at the Anchorage Egan Convention Center and will again provide us with an opportunity to honor individual Alaskans who have saved lives or reduced injuries of fellow Alaskans through heroic actions or meritorious service. Nominations can be made in the following categories:

**EMS Citizen Award** (person not in the regular line of duty who performs life-saving, limb-saving, or medical techniques in a medical emergency)

**EMS Provider Award** (medically trained person who performs meritorious service above and beyond expectations of the job)

**EMS Administrator or Researcher Award** (person who successfully develops a new approach, technique, device, etc. to improve EMS in Alaska and/or an outstanding administrator in an EMS agency or service)

**EMS Educator Award** (state-certified EMT or ETT Instructor who is dedicated to quality instruction and promoting the best in prehospital care or has made an outstanding contribution to EMS education)

**George H. Longenbaugh, MD, Memorial Award** (physician who exemplifies leadership and dedication to EMS systems and has significantly promoted the Alaska EMS system)

**Melissa Ann Peters, RN, Memorial Award** (outstanding nurse who has contributed in a special way to the encouragement of EMS skills, efforts, and education)

**Outstanding Ambulance Service Award** (for ambulance or first responder group that provides year-round service/gains community support in its service/educational activities)

**Special Commendation** (for air medical services, injury promotion/prevention, organizations and individuals that support EMS activities)

It's not too early to begin thinking about who you would like to honor in your EMS service this year. Nominations for the awards will be solicited beginning the first week in August and the deadline for submissions is Friday, September 13, 2002. Nominations should be mailed to:

Shelley K. Owens  
Section of Community Health & EMS  
P.O. Box 110616  
Juneau, AK 99811-0616

Further information about the award criteria or procedures can be found at the website for the State EMS Office at [http://chems.alaska.gov/ems\\_awards.htm](http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_awards.htm) or by contacting Shelley K. Owens at 465-3028 or by email at [shelley\\_owens@health.state.ak.us](mailto:shelley_owens@health.state.ak.us).

## 27th ANNUAL EMS SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

### PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS

#### 2 DAY WORKSHOPS

#### WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 & 14

**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

(Management Track)

*Designated/Infection Control Officer*  
Katherine West  
Cost – \$200.00 (space is limited, Sign up by October 4 to avoid cancellation of the course)

(Medevac)

*Alaska Medevac Escort Course*  
This course is the updated and revised curriculum (space is limited)  
Alaska Medevac Course Task Force  
Cost— \$ 125.00

#### 1 DAY WORKSHOPS

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

(Management Track)

*EMS Management Course*  
Kevin Koechlein, MICP  
Cost— \$75.00 (space is limited)

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**7:30 AM**

REGISTRATION

**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Clinical Forensics: Beyond CSI*  
Jackie Palmer, RN  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
Cost – \$ 75.00

(Management Track)

*2002 Billing Forum*  
Katie Fosselman  
Fosselman and Weiland CPAs  
Cost – \$ 75.00

#### HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

Cost – \$50.00 each for AM and PM sessions

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

(BLS/ALS/Nursing Track)

*Bioterrorism Update*  
Ted Cieslak, MD, Colonel  
United States Army

(Instructor Track)

*Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect by the Prehospital Provider* (train-the-trainer)  
Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine  
New York

(Injury Prevention Track)

*Winter Safety*  
Panel Session

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

LUNCH

**1:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

(BLS/ALS/Nursing Track)

*New Trends in Drug Abuse*  
Deb Blizzard, RN  
Soldotna, Alaska

(Instructor Track)

*Paramedic TRIPP and PPC: A Partnership in Paramedic Education in Pediatrics*  
Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine

(Injury Prevention Track)

*The Force Is With You*  
Robert Kaufman  
Seattle, Washington  
*EMS and Injury Prevention: A Persuasive Moment*  
Robert Painter, MICP  
Homer, Alaska

**6:00 PM**

*Welcoming Reception*  
*Hotel Captain Cook*

#### CLINICAL TRACK\*

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

*CPR from Hell: What to do When PALS doesn't Work*  
BJ Coopes, MD  
Anchorage, Alaska

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

*TBA*

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

LUNCH

**1:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

*Pediatrics and Infectious Agents*  
Ted Cieslak, MD, Colonel  
United States Army

**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*  
Bernd Jilly, PhD  
Chief, Section of Laboratories  
State of Alaska

**6:00 PM**

*Welcoming Reception*  
*Hotel Captain Cook*

\* "Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity."

Behavioral Objectives for all presentations will be available for viewing on Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.'s web site after September 10, 2002, at <http://www.sremc.org>.

**All classes are held at the  
Egan Convention Center.  
Please note times and  
special instructions.**

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	<u>Registration</u>
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<u>Opening Session</u> Mark S. Johnson, MPA, Chief Section of Community Health & EMS Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager Section of Community Health & EMS
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<u>General Session</u> <u>"EMS in the Last Frontier: Reflections from a Frequent Guest"</u> Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P Boulder, CO
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH <i>Safe Kids' Luncheon</i> Top of the World Hilton Anchorage  <i>EMS Instructors' Luncheon</i> Sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Shaken Baby Syndrome</u> Detective Dave Parker Anchorage Police Department
(BLS/ALS/Injury Prevention/Clinical Track)	<u>The New Cold Injuries Guidelines</u> (Panel)
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Life in the Fast Lane</u> Jeff Grunow, MSN, NREMT-P Ogden, Utah
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Medic Notes: Classroom Tips That Work on the Street</u> David Gurchiek, MS, NREMT-P Billings, Montana
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Kinesics, Proximics &amp; Impressions</u> Alan Loken, MICP Anchorage, Alaska
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>S.T.A.R.T.</u> Karen Jensen, RN Soldotna, Alaska
(Instructor Track)	<u>How to Teach Shock</u> Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P Boulder, Colorado
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Medic One Respond to: Challenging Street Scenarios</u> David J. Gurchiek, MS NREMT-P Billings, Montana
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Your Efforts with the Legislature: How to get your Point across!</u> Alaska Representative Ken Lancaster Soldotna, Alaska
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Basic Communications Panel</u> Mark Johnson, Facilitator Section of Community Health and EMS

(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>JumpSTART Triage for Children.</u> Karen Jensen, RN Soldotna, Alaska
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Pediatric Transport: There and Back Again</u> Jackie Palmer, RN Knoxville, Tennessee
(Instructor Track )	<u>ADA and Education</u> Jeff Grunow, RN, NREMT-P Ogden, Utah
(BLS/ALS/Injury Prevention Track)	<u>CIREN: Crash Injuries Mechanisms</u> Robert Kauffman Harborview Medical Center Seattle, Washington

## CLINICAL TRACK

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<u>Clinical Toxicology: Approach to the Unknown Overdose</u> Ken Bizovi, MD Oregon Poison Center
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>General Session</u> <u>"EMS in the Last Frontier: Reflec- tions from a Frequent Guest"</u> Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P Boulder, CO
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>The New Cold Injuries Guidelines</u> (Panel)
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	<u>Update on Antidotes</u> Ken Bizovi, MD Oregon Poison Center

## Kids Don't Float

The Alaska Kids Don't Float program saw its 300<sup>th</sup> loaner board site go up in July of this year! An observation study of life jacket use among almost 2,000 children and adults observed in seven communities around the state, showed a

27% wear rate. Observations done in Juneau showed that the wear rate at KDF sites was 50% greater than at the non-KDF sites. Future observation studies will determine any improvement in these rates over time.

For more information about Kids Don't Float program visit: [http://chems.alaska.gov/kids\\_don't\\_float.htm](http://chems.alaska.gov/kids_don't_float.htm)



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Granny Care: Elderly Patients Deserve Better*

David Gurchiek, MS, NREMT-P  
Billings, Montana

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Aviation and EMS: Similarities Between the Flight Deck and the Street*

Jeff Grunow, RN, NREMT-P  
Ogden, Utah

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Child Abuse in Alaska*

Kitty Dennis, MSN, FNP, PNP—Nurse Examiner  
Anchorage, Alaska

(Instructor Track)

*Scenario Development Workshop: Part 1* (Need to attend both sessions)

Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P  
Boulder, Colorado

(Management Track)

*HIPAA*

Anna Webb, RN, JD  
Anchorage, Alaska

(Injury Prevention)

*Sports Injuries*

Jay Caldwell, MD  
Anchorage, Alaska

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

BREAK

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

(BLS/ALS Track)

*My Trip to Ground Zero*

Dave Hull, MICP  
Ketchikan, Alaska

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Treat: Not Treat*

David J. Gurchiek NREMT-P  
Billings, Montana

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Orthopedic Injuries*

Candy Clawson, MD  
Anchorage, Alaska

(Instructor Track)

*Scenario Development Workshop: Part 2* (Need to attend both sessions)

Twink Dalton, RN, MSN, NREMT-P

(Injury Prevention)

*TBA*

Gordon Giesbrecht  
Manitoba, Canada

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

LUNCH

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

(BLS/ALS Track)

*A Trekkers Comparison of EMS History*

Jeff Grunow, RN, NREMT-P  
Ogden, Utah

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Medic Madness\*\**

Master of Ceremony:  
Valerie DeFrance, MICP

(Management Track)

*Air Ambulance Issues Meeting*

Jason Schwebach, Facilitator  
Program Director, LifeGuard Alaska

**1:30 PM**

*Skills Competition*

**7:15 PM**

*No Host Cocktails*

**8:00 PM**

*EMS Awards Banquet*

### CLINICAL TRACK

**8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

*Documentation: The Facts; Just the Facts*

Jackie Palmer, RN

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

BREAK

**10:30 AM - 12:00 AM**

*Prevention in Heart Disease: Making the Best of that Teachable Moment*

Carol White  
Cardiovascular Program Manager  
Section of Community Health and EMS

**12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

LUNCH

**1:30 PM - 3:00 PM**

*"It Cuts Like A Knife:" Management of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm*

Brian Carriere, RN, EMT-P, CFRN  
Anchorage, AK

### MEDICAL DIRECTORS COURSE

**8:00 AM—5 PM**

NorthStar Academy  
All day course that includes a Medical Director's Luncheon

**7:15 PM**

*No Host Cocktails*

**8:00 PM**

*EMS Awards Banquet*

*Medic*



*Madness*

**\*\* Medic Madness**

Where are you in the evolutionary chain of EMS knowledge? Play in our EMS game show and find out! Bring a partner, or get stuck with the guy next to you. Prizes for the top 3 scoring teams! Game show host *Sero Tonin* and her lovely assistant *Ami Odarone*.

## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN RURAL ALASKA GETS A BIG “SHOT IN THE ARM”



Staff from the Primary Care and Rural Health Unit of CHEMS, in conjunction with the Alaska Primary Care Association, and the Seattle HRSA Field Office assisted Alaskan communities and organizations to prepare grants for community health center funding. During the 2002 Alaska Rural Health Conference in April, Elizabeth M. Duke, Ph.D., Acting Administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services, and Liz Connell from Senator Ted Stevens' office, announced a \$10 million dollar initiative that was made available to Alaskan communities to assist in developing primary health care services. These funds allow successful organizations to take advantage of ongoing federal funding for healthcare in medically underserved areas of the State. To take advantage of this initiative, organizations needed to submit proposals to HRSA by June 21, eight weeks from the funding announcement.

Increased availability of health centers in rural Alaska will strengthen the healthcare network, and give EMS personnel additional options for assistance. Further, an increase in the number of medical practitioners in rural Alaska may give EMS provider's additional options for preceptors and for additional medical training.

The Primary Care and Rural Health Unit Staff would like to thank all our partnership organizations, and Senator Stevens' Office for all the hard work in helping citizens in Alaska have greater access to healthcare. For further information regarding this frontier health initiative, please call Pat Carr, at 465-3091.

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## Amended EMS Regulations

The State EMS Training Committee, and the Section of Community Health and EMS, have been working on improvements to the EMT/EMT Instructor Certification regulations for several years. The goals of the project were to increase the consistency of the qualifications for certification of instructors at different levels and to minimize regulatory barriers to training and certification. We are very pleased to tell you that the “Training Matrix Regulations” were approved and became effective on August 16, 2002. The Section of Community Health and EMS is grateful to



those who participated in the public comment period last summer and to members of the State EMS Training Committee. In particular, we express our thanks to Robert Purcell, a former member of the Training Committee who represented the Alaska Fire Chief's Association and is now enjoying an active and well-deserved retirement. Robert was instrumental in developing some of the key concepts on which many of the amendments were based.

A few of the benefits of the new regulations include:

**ETT to EMT-1 Bridge Course** – This allows currently credentialed Emergency Trauma Technicians to take a course that is approximately 80 hours in length, and makes them eligible to take the EMT-1 written and practical examinations and apply for certification. The bridge course was developed under a contract with Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc., by Rob Janik, MICP, EMS Training Coordinator. The course was pilot tested in Southeast Alaska by Kathy Griffin, Assistant EMS Training Coordinator of Southern Region EMS Council.

**Combination of Recertification Requirements for EMTs** – In the past, we had several options for recertification. This flexibility was a benefit to everyone except those who didn't read the requirements carefully and submitted applications meeting some of the qualifications for each of the options. These regulations combine the requirements into a more understandable and flexible system.

**A better system for defining the “experience” prerequisite to EMT-II and EMT-III training** – Rather than months of experience, the new regulations require a certain number of patient contacts.

The amended regulations are contained in Register 163 of the Alaska Administrative Code and will be appearing in the October supplement to the codes.

The task of implementing these amendments falls on the capable shoulders of Kathy McLeron, PA-C, MICP, State EMS Training Coordinator. Kathy has been immersed in this project since joining the CHEMS staff in August 2001 and has been working with the State EMS Training Committee on curricula, forms and explanatory documents to make the implementation as smooth as possible.

Much more information is available on our web site at <http://www.chems.alaska.gov> and we are planning on a special issue of RESPONSE: EMS Alaska devoted to the changes in the regulations.

## The Alaska Comfort One Program

Patients, families and emergency medical personnel know how important it is to document end-of-life wishes so that they are understood and respected.

Some individuals who are terminally ill do not wish to have life saving measures, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, performed when they go into respiratory or cardiac arrest. Alaska statutes and regulations establish the "Comfort One Program" to help health care providers identify terminally ill persons who have expressed these wishes. In addition, the program establishes a protocol for health care providers to respect these wishes once the person has been identified as being enrolled in the program.

At the time a physician enrolls a patient in the Comfort One program, the patient is given a copy of the enrollment form and a wallet card. Patients and families are encouraged to keep them in a visible or easily accessible location. The person may choose to purchase a Comfort One bracelet through his or her attending physician. Bracelets are only available to those enrolled in the Comfort One program and are particularly useful for persons who travel outside the home. Bracelets may be purchased. The Comfort One form, wallet card, and optional bracelet serve as proof to health care providers that the person is enrolled in the program.

The protocol (regulations) requires that a physician or other health care provider (EMT, Paramedic, etc.) immediately proceed with patient assessment and care, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, until the patient's identity is confirmed and the patient is determined to have a valid DNR order.

The health care provider should establish the patient's DNR status through at least one of the following means:

- a Comfort One form or wallet card for the patient;
- a Comfort One bracelet worn or carried by the patient;
- a DNR identification for the patient that is from another state, a territory, or a possession of the United States;
- an attending physician's written DNR order, when a copy has been provided to or seen by the physician or other health care provider; or
- a verbal order which has been issued directly to the physician or health care provider by the attending physician.

A Do Not Resuscitate order may be revoked by:

- the qualified DNR patient;
- the patient's attending physician;
- a third party to whom the patient conveyed an intent to revoke; or

- the parent or guardian of the person for whom the order has been written if the person enrolled in the Comfort One program is less than 18 years of age.

The health care provider should carefully document the revocation. In some cases, the patient may simply destroy copies of the Comfort One form and wallet card.

Once the DNR status and patient's identity have been confirmed, and the patient is pulseless or apneic, the protocols are easy to follow:

- If the patient **DOES NOT have** a valid DNR order, the standard treatment and transport protocols, including CPR, should be employed.
- If the patient **DOES have** a valid DNR order, resuscitation efforts should not be initiated or, if already in progress, terminated immediately.

Health care personnel should provide comfort care as appropriate for the patient and within the scope of lawful activities for the individual health care provider.

For more information about the Comfort One Program, review the relevant Alaska Statutes (18.12.035 – 18.12.100), Alaska regulations (7 AAC 16.010 - 7 AAC 16.090) and visit the CHEMS web site ([www.chems.alaska.gov](http://www.chems.alaska.gov)). The web site contains quite a bit of information about this important program, including sample forms and photographs of the Comfort One bracelet that indicates that a person is enrolled in the program.

*(Continued from page 3)*

they will begin using new forms and different procedure codes

- June 6, 2002 – OIG releases draft Compliance Program for Ambulance Suppliers
- August 14, 2002 – DHHS releases final modifications to the HIPPA privacy rule

Fosselman & Weiland (the billing contractors for the Municipality of Anchorage and the Kenai Borough) have invited representatives from each of the organizations mentioned above to present information on the changes.

Following the presentations, there will be a question and answer session. Representatives have been invited from Tricare/Champus, Veterans Affairs, Alaska Native Services, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, and the Workers Compensation board to address specific provider issues and questions.

To make this year's Billing Forum as helpful and informative as possible, we are asking providers to email specific questions or areas of interest to us in advance. PLEASE – even if you do not plan to attend – if you have a question, send it to us – we will do our utmost to get you an answer.

Please email your questions to [amylynn@alaska-cpas.com](mailto:amylynn@alaska-cpas.com).

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